

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 OMB-01 /075 W

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R 231205Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1203

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, UR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED JULY 18 BORDER INCIDENT

REF: USBERLIN 1424

1. GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONDED VIA TELEX LATE EVENING
JULY 21 TO SENAT REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALLEGED
JULY 18 BORDER SHOOTING (REFTEL, SPECIFYING TIME (BETWEEN
0040 AND 0150 HOURS) AND LOCATION OF INCIDENT (GROSS GLIENICKER
HEIDE, AT END OF MELSUNGER STRASSE -- IN BRITISH SECTOR.)
PERPETRATORS, IT WAS CLAIMED, HAD PENETRATED GDR TERRITORY TO
DISTANCE OF TEN METERS, HAD BROKEN THROUGH WALL IN TWO PLACES,
AND HAD FIRED TOTAL OF SEVEN SHOTS AT GDR BORDER GUARDS. IN
ADDITION TO PROVIDING THESE DETAILS, GDR TELEX CONTAINED
FRESH ALLEGATION THAT SECOND "MALICIOUS" ATTACK HAD BEEN
PERPETRATED ON GDR BORDER GUARDS AT 0905 HOURS JULY 19,
IN REGION OF FALKENHOEH (ALSO IN BRITISH SECTOR). INDIVIDUAL
HAD ALLEGEDLY FIRED SEVERAL "AIMED" SHOTS AT BORDER GUARDS AND HAD
THEN ESCAPED TO WEST BERLIN. AS IN FIRST INSTANCE, DEMAND WAS MADE
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THAT SENAT PUNISH GUILTY INDIVIDUAL AND TAKE NECESSARY
STEPS TO PREVENT SUCH INCIDENTS IN FUTURE.

2. AS OF MORNING JULY 23, PLICE HAVE UNCOVERED NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE GDR CHARGES. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF SHOTS BEING HEARD AT EITHER OF LOCATIONS AT SPECIFIED TIMES. SHOULD NOTHING FURTHER COME TO LIGHT IN NEXT DAY OR SO, SENAT INTENDS TO INFORM GDR OF NEGATIVE FINDINGS SIMULTANEOUSLY THROUGH POLICE TO INTERIOR MINISTRY AND STATTSANWALT TO STAATSANWALT CHANNELS. SENAT WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, GIVE ANY ASSURANCES ON PREVENTING BORDER INCIDENTS IN FUTURE.

3. COMMENT: FIRST OF ALLEGED INCIDENTS OCCURRED, IF IT TOOK PLACE AT ALL, IN THINLY POPULATED AREA, AND IT IS CONCEIVABLE--ALTHOUGH NOT VERY LIKELY--THAT SHOTS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN HEARD CLEARLY ENOUGH BY LOCAL INHABITANTS TO PROMPT REPORTS TO POLICE. KNOWLEDGEABLE SENAT OFFICIALS MAINTAIN THAT GDR HAS NOT IN PAST CONCOCTED STORIES SUCH AS THESE IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN AWAY, FOR EXAMPLE, FIRING AT WOULD-BE OR IMAGINARY ESCAPEES. NEVERTHELESS, IN ABSENCE OF CONCRETE EVIDENCE TO BACK UP GDR ASSERTIONS, SPECULATION REMAINS THAT EAST GERMANS ARE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING OR, FOR UNKNOWN REASONS, ARE MANUFACTURING CHARGES. GEORGE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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